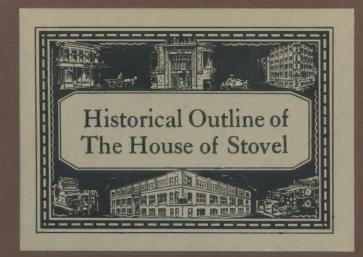
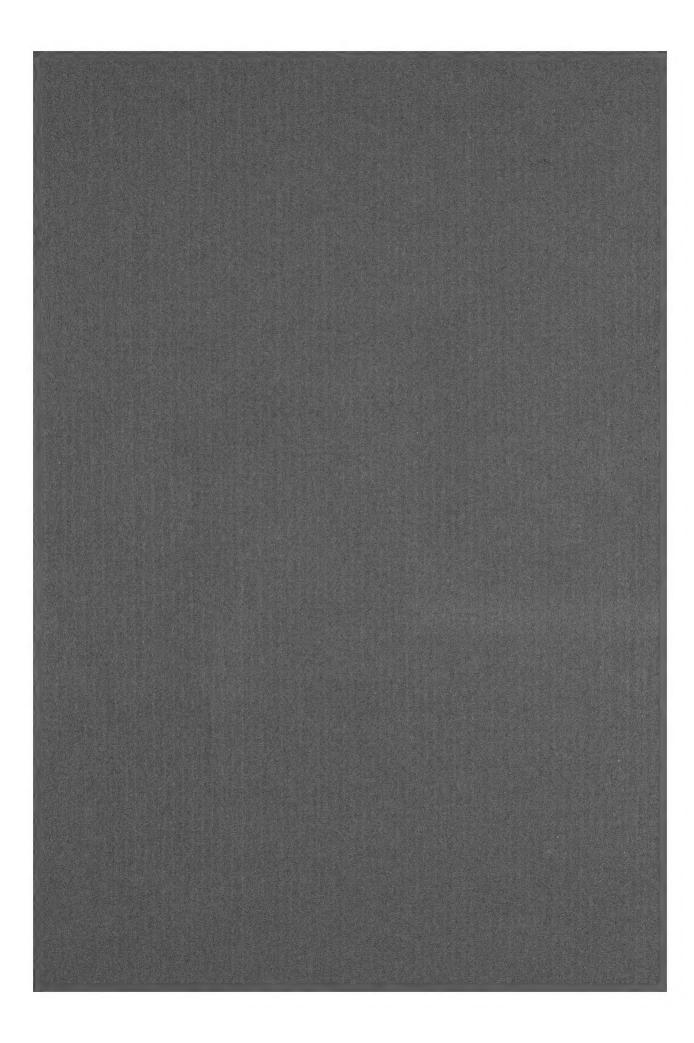
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Historical Outline of The House of Stovel



Historical Outline of The House of Stovel

A Short Historical Sketch Together with Illustrations and Descriptions of the Growth of the Company

STOVEL COMPANY LIMITED

"A COMPLETE PRINTING SERVICE"
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

TIME

HAS SEEN MANY FRIENDS,

TOILERS IN THE BUILDING

OF THIS ORGANIZATION,

PASS ON TO THEIR REWARD

OR TO OTHER FIELDS

OF ENDEAVOR.

TO THOSE,
AS WELL AS TO THE
PRESENT BUILDERS,
THIS BOOK IS
DEDICATED.

FOREWORD

The purpose of this book is to set out in handy format something of the institution to which our customers past, present and future, entrust their printing. More detailed information than is herein contained will be gladly furnished, should you desire it.





THE PRESENT HOME OF STOVEL COMPANY LIMITED AND ASSOCIATE COMPANIES, BANNATYNE AVENUE, DAGMAR TO ELLEN STREETS, WINNIPEG.

HISTORICAL

The beginnings of any business that in less than half a century has become an outstanding organization is, to thoughtful men, always of interest. History records that for the most part, such concerns start in a small, almost unnoticed manner. Thrift, energy, application, perseverance, to mention only four attributes, contribute to the gradual increase and development of the successful business. A too rapid growth is almost as equally disastrous as no growth at all. This is particularly true, at least, of the printing industry.

It was in December, 1889, that John Stovel, who for a year had struggled with a small print plant in Winnipeg, joined in partnership with his two brothers, Augustus B. Stovel and Chester D. Stovel. That marked the foundation of the firm that today is known as "Stovel Company Limited."

Their first small printing office was located in the Spencer Block (since destroyed for the erection of the Curry Building) on Portage Avenue, Winnipeg. Some idea of the size of the plant can be gained by the area used, which was the rear two-thirds of an office, the total area of which was only 712 square feet. Here, with a few fonts of type and a small hand press, the business had its start. Progress was slow, but steady. Winnipeg was not much larger than



The Second Home of Stovel Company, Arthur Street and McDermot Avenue, with the Staff of Employees. Picture was taken in 1893.

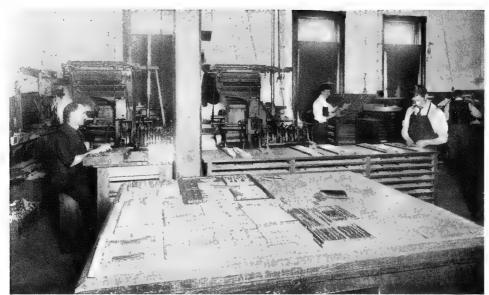
a town in those days, yet the three brothers, with high ambitions, worked for the development of their business, with most satisfactory results.

By 1892 they had outgrown their Spencer Block quarters and were forced to move. They determined to erect their own building, which they located at the corner of McDermot Avenue and Arthur Street. It was only a three-storey structure, yet it afforded so much additional space that they sublet the top floor to a local German newspaper.

New offices gave new ambitions, new energy. The business continued to thrive. The first job linotype to be purchased by any printer in Canada and the first to be used in Western Canada, even by newspapers, was purchased to cope with the work. Shortly a second was added. Gasoline engines were superseded by electric motors on presses. A telephone was put



THE OLD SPENCER BLOCK, BIRTHPLACE OF STOVEL COMPANY.

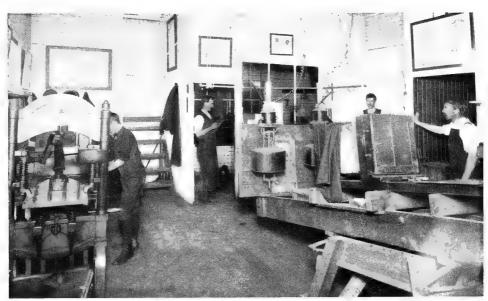


A Portion of the Composing Room, 1898, Showing the First Two Job Linotypes in Western Canada.

in. You see the business gradually becoming more modern with the passing years. In 1893 an engraving and lithographing firm in Winnipeg, which had been operated by H. C. and J. W. Stovel, was purchased and merged with the Stovel Company. This gave Stovels a pioneer engraving plant in Western Canada. It was this small firm that purchased the necessary special plates direct from Lumiere Freres, Paris, France, and after considerable delay and difficulty, produced the first three-color process plates in Western Canada, if not in all Canada. This seemingly small item to present-day printers, really, at that time created tremendous interest and marked Stovels as printers of outstanding merit in their community.

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, the business had expanded beyond the capacity of their building. Hence work had commenced on the enlarging of the building by extending it to King Street on McDermot Avenue, and adding an additional two storeys to the entire building. At first the entire new building, which was fully occupied by the fall of 1900, was not used completely by the printing company. Office space was sublet to others, amongst which was Winnipeg's first public manual or technical training school.

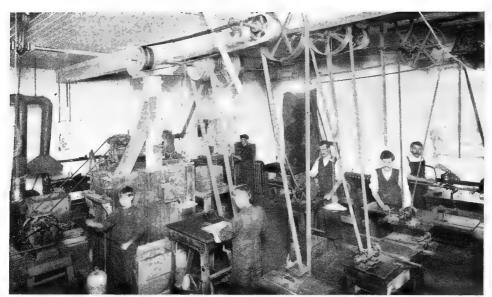
In March, 1909, the business was incorporated as a Limited Stock Company. Yet, financially, the company even today is practically entirely a family corporation, and the control still remains in the original three-family grouping.



VIEW OF PHOTO-ENGRAVING DEPARTMENT AS IT WAS IN 1898.

Each year marked a steady advance in business. By 1912 there was evidence of overflowing the entire McDermot Avenue property. This necessitated some new location, as there was no possible way of increasing their plant without entirely remodelling the building, a factor that would have greatly hampered them in production. A piece of property they held on Bannatyne Avenue from Dagmar to Ellen Streets seemed to offer the necessary solution. In area it was larger than the McDermot property, and the only other building in this entire city block was the Winnipeg Public Library. After careful investigation and planning, the first small unit of the new plant was built, principally then used for storage of paper and long press run production.

On the night of May 2nd, 1916, a most disastrous fire almost entirely wiped out the old plant. It was a crippling experience, but it did necessitate the immediate proceeding with the erection of the present three-storey house of Stovel Company Limited. The war with the increased cost of materials and equipment had delayed the plans that had been made. The fire changed these plans overnight. Temporary office quarters were opened for business at the usual hour the morning of May the third. Co-operating local printers and small plants that were rented, made it possible, with what could be quickly salvaged from the fire, to complete all deliveries for contracted work on the date required. Notwithstanding the chaos of it all the new plant was being erected with utmost speed and new



GENERAL VIEW OF STOVEL'S STEREOTYPING AND ELECTROTYPING DEPARTMENT, 1898.

equipment ordered and installed as quickly as it arrived. The spring of 1917 found Stovels in their new home. Since then they have been gradually re-arranging the different departments, installing new, larger or more efficient equipment. Today finds them unique in Canada. Fourteen separate departments of associated graphic art crafts gives them a service that may well be called "A Complete Printing Service." But plus this completeness are the facilities, experience and craftsmanship that make it possible for them to deliver a finished production that is fully up to the requirements of their many customers throughout Canada and in foreign countries. For example, they have filled on two occasions, for one of the leading Chinese Railways, orders for several carloads of railway tickets.

On March 26th, 1921, the late Mr. A. B. Stovel, till then Secretary-Treasurer of the Company, passed on to his reward. On May 30th, 1923, a similar sadness occurred in the passing of the founder and first president of the Company, the late Mr. John Stovel. The Company subsequently elected Mr. C. D. Stovel as President, Mr. E. Carlton Stovel as Vice-President, and Mr. Gordon A. Stovel as Secretary-Treasurer. Large though the present production of the establishment is, the personal element is a cherished characteristic. Those who work with the present officers, build, as did those in the past, for a greater future. From a small beginning, a large successful plant results. The future will show a still larger plant. We build today for tomorrow.



View of Lithograph Pressroom, 1902. Compare the Old Style Stone Presses with the Modern Offset Press shown on Page 24.



THE BINDERY DEPARTMENT AS IT WAS IN 1898. A PORTION OF THE PRINTING PRESSES CAN BE SEEN IN THE UPPER LEFT HAND CORNER. NOTE ALSO THAT PAPER WAS LEFT IN CRATES JUST AS IT CAME FROM THE MILLS UNTIL NEEDED.



GENERAL OFFICE IN THE PRESENT ESTABLISHMENT. WELL LIGHTED, ATTRACTIVE, SPACIOUS, AND COMPLETE WITH MODERN OFFICE EQUIPMENT.

PRESENT PLANT

Stovel's present establishment is one of the most modern in Canada. It is situated on Bannatyne Avenue and covers half a city block from Dagmar to Ellen Streets. The building itself is three storeys high, of brick and reinforced concrete construction. Sprinkler fire equipment protects the present building from the hazard of fire. Automatic humidifiers and thermostatic controls keep humidity and heat as nearly uniform as modern science has yet devised. Large windows give generous inlet to nature's light, and artificial light is obtained where and when necessary from special factory-type electric fixtures. Working conditions are clean and healthy. There is an air about Stovels of permanency and progressiveness that marks it as a thorough, efficient printing establishment.

The equipment is constantly under supervision of the plant electrician and mechanic. New, larger or more efficient machinery is added from time to time, keeping always well ahead of the demands on the plant capacity. At times specially-designed attachments are fitted to Stovel's presses, worked out on the suggestions of their employees and built by their own machinists to more effectively produce work for their clientele. There are fourteen separate and distinct departments to Stovel Company Limited. These include almost all branches of



THE PRESENT MONOTYPE EQUIPMENT INCLUDES TWO SINGLE AND TWO DUPLEX MONOTYPE KEYBOARDS.



THE MONOTYPE CASTER-ROOM INCLUDES FOUR TYPE CASTERS AND ONE SLUG, RULE AND SORTS CASTER.



VIEW OF THE PRESENT LINOTYPE DEPARTMENT. THESE MACHINES ARE USED PRINCIPALLY FOR SETTING STRAIGHT READING MATTER.

the graphic arts, and are capable of rendering a unique service to purchasers of printed salesmanship.

In the department for copy, they are able to write material for such advertising or publicity as may be necessary. Facilities for research available through the associated magazines give customers the benefit of highly-trained specialists in fields of a wide variety of endeavor.

Commercial photography has steadily increased in importance to advertisers. To meet this demand the Company has the largest north-light studio in Western Canada for photographing specially-posed merchandise. The studio is complete with arc and spot lights for special lighting effects. Then, too, there are competent photo-



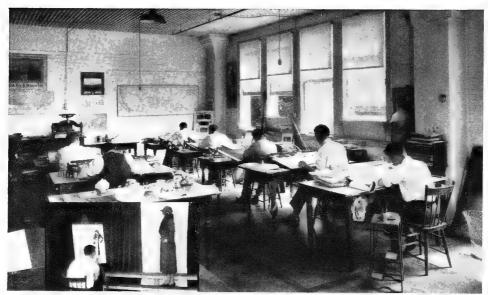
Page Seventeen



GENERAL VIEW OF COMPOSING ROOM, WHICH IS WELL LIGHTED, CLEAN AND EFFICIENT. AMPLE SUPPLIES OF ALL NECESSARY MATERIAL ARE HANDY TO EACH COMPOSITOR.



Photographing a Specially Arranged Display of Flashlight Photographic Equipment in Stovel's Studios.



THE COMMERCIAL ART DEPARTMENT, WITH INSET, ONE OF THE FASHION ARTISTS WORKING DIRECT FROM MODEL.

graphers ready to go outside the plant to take interior, exterior, pictorial or large equipment photographs.

As to artists, Stovels have a large staff of black and white and full color artists, whose competency and ability have won increasing favor. Equally so is the special department of lithographic artists technically trained to appreciate fully the varying demands peculiar to the modern lithographing process.

In the photo-engraving department the years of experience, high craftsmanship of the staff, and equipment used, make it possible for Stovels to turn out newspaper cuts with a speed that astounds, yet with no loss in the quality of the finished product. As well as news cuts, or engravings, the finest of process plates, intricate half-tones, wood engravings, and so forth are produced. These, of course, take considerably greater time to complete. One thing is noticeable about their engravings, that is, that Stovels being printers as well as engravers, their finished photo-engraving is not only a good product as such, but must likewise print properly. Co-ordination of departments has put Stovel's engravings to an unusual test for perfection—a factor that means much to the ultimate printed product.

Closely allied with the photo-engraving are the electrotyping and stereotyping departments. One of the first to introduce these processes to Western Canada, years of service find Stovels still leaders in this field. Complete facilities for production of both nickle and copper electrotypes, lead or nickle-faced stereotypes,



A Few of the Camerana of the Present Philippe Knowsvirus Devantation),



Backing the Electrotypes with Lead. This Furnace for Melting Lead is Electrically Equipped, Complete with Thermostatic Control shown in Left Portion of Picture.



A PORTION OF THE ELECTROTYPE FINISHING DEPARTMENT IN STOVEL'S PRESENT PLANT.

with a maze of special machinery for the finishing of the plates, are ample to meet the most exacting demands for high-grade workmanship.

Typography—or in simple terms "type setting"—is produced at Stovels by hand, by monotype and by linotype machinery. Theirs is what is known as a "non-distribution" plant, that is, only new fresh type is used on each job. The old type after use is melted down for re-use in setting new type. The layout and equipment of Stovel's composing room delights the master printer. Readily he appreciates the arrangement of the department for elimination of waste and error. He, too, revels in the wide variety of type faces available, fully realizing that almost any requirement can quickly be filled. Cuts are stored for customers in boxes designed and made by Stovels to facilitate handling and protect from damage.

Just off the composing room is the job printing department, where small job presses can quickly produce the smaller orders. Yet, known as it is, as the "Job Press Department," it is large enough to more than represent an average print plant. The pressroom proper is situated on the ground floor adjoining the stockroom. Here the larger flat beds, two-color presses and rotaries, are of a size and capacity sufficient for the large edition magazine and catalogue orders.

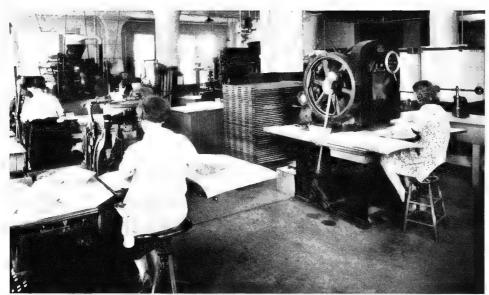
To increase the quality of Stovel's printing, all paper is seasoned on racks before going to the presses. The extra handling increases the quality of the final



Two Specialized Processes of the Photo-Engraving and Electrotyping Department at Stovel Company Limited.



EVERY ENGRAVING PRODUCED BY STOVELS HAS TO PASS DETAILED EXAMINATION, AND PRECISION PROOFS ARE DELIVERED WITH EACH ORDER.



Steel Die Embossing and Copper-Plate Printing Department for Office and Personal Stationery.

work. Any possibility of static electricity trouble is eliminated by neutralizing electrical apparatus attached and part of each press.

The offset-lithograph department co-operating with the photo-engraving department is today producing photo-offset work of outstanding merit. Also included in this department are complete facilities for high-grade stone-engraved and hand-drawn lithography, still widely used.

In conjunction with the lithograph department is the map-publishing division. Stovel's maps are known throughout Canada. Besides a wide range of stock maps they produce special technical maps for railways, governments, tourist organizations, etc., to meet individual needs. Some years ago Stovels operated the only wax map department in Canada. Their fire in 1916 meant a loss of many thousands of dollars of original plates. Since then, however, they have replaced the originals by other methods more readily protected against similar loss.

Closely allied with the lithographing department are two others—one for steel die-stamping, the second for copper-plate engraving. These though not extensive are more than sufficient to produce the society or invitation type of stationery for business firms or private individuals.

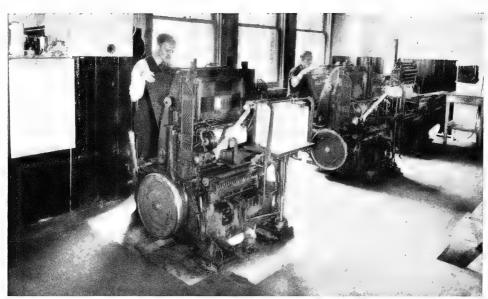
The bindery at Stovel Company Limited has been equipped for finishing a product in almost any manner. Here one will find gathering machines, covering



Transfer Room in Stovel's Lithograph Department. Here the Preparatory Work is Assembled and Transferred ready for the Offset Presses.



One of the Modern Offset Lithograph Presses, which are Automatically Fed and Equipped for Pile Delivery.

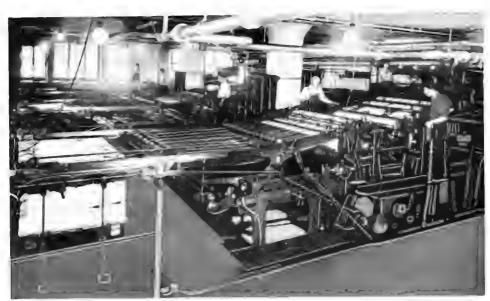


Two Automatic Presses that are a Portion of the Job Printing Department, which includes Ten Presses in all.

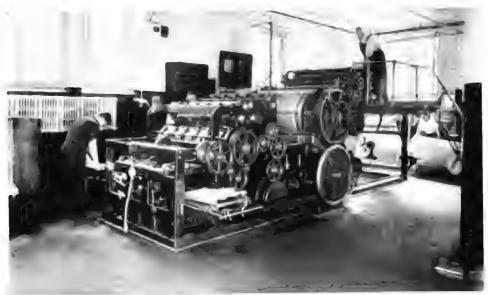
machines, folders, stitchers, loopers, rulers, cutters, punchers, perforators and so on and on. All work is finished here, finally checked and then sent to the shipping department for delivery, and whether a hand-sewn book with full leather binding, or merely a simple padded job, the completed product must be entirely satisfactory to the customer, a policy which has helped build the organization to its present size.

While most of the work produced is delivered direct or shipped to the customer, there are, for those who desire, facilities for mailing their direct-by-mail advertising to their prospects. Direct-mail advertising campaigns so handled eliminate a good deal of worry and uncertainty for customers and assure prompt delivery on scheduled dates.

Such is a hurried outline of the Stovel establishment today. Equipment, expert craftsmanship and experience, a combination that assures the purchaser of a finished product designed and produced to meet his particular needs, ample facilities for large production work and intimate attention to details in large or small orders, are factors which mean much to the modern, successful, business executive.



Three of the Large Size Two-Color Flat-Bed Presses, Typical of the Equipment in Stovel's Pressroom.



One of the Rotary Perfecting Magazine Presses which Print Two Sides, Cut and Fold, Delivering Completed Sections of a Magazine.



Portion of the Bindery showing in the Background One of the Folding Machines, and in the Foreground Benches for Hand Work.



Two Gatherer-Stitcher Machines and in the Background Magazine Cutting Machine. Just to Right of the Cutting Machine can be seen the Conveyor Belt which Carries Magazines Direct to Mailing Department





GATHERING MACHINE USED FOR COLLATING TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES, CATALOGUES OR OTHER SIDE-BOUND BOOKS.



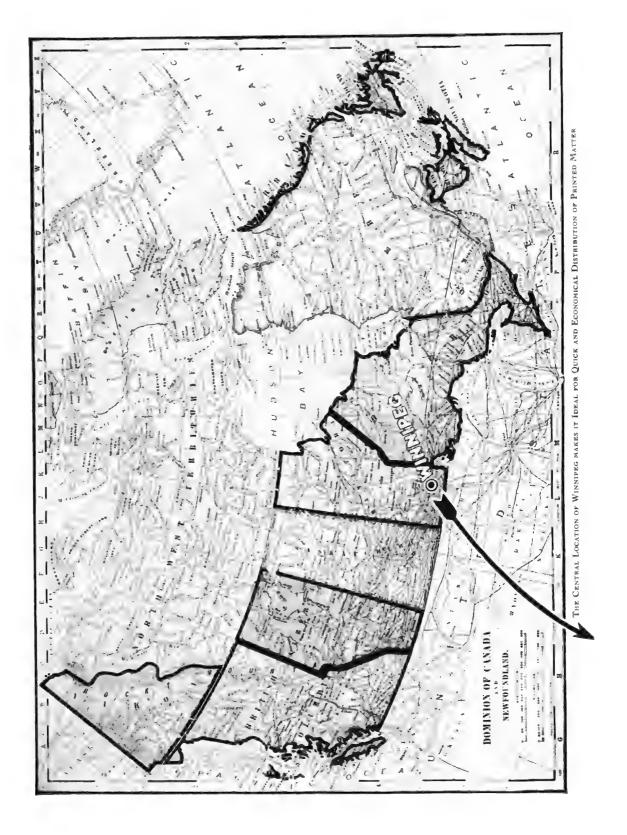
THE COVERING MACHINE, WHICH AUTOMATICALLY GLUES COVERS TO SIDE-WIRE STITCHED BOOKS.



Making a Delivery of more than a Ton and a Half of Printed Matter Direct to Railway Mail Service.



This View Gives Some Idea of the Supplies of Paper that are Carried in Stock Today for Web Press use only.





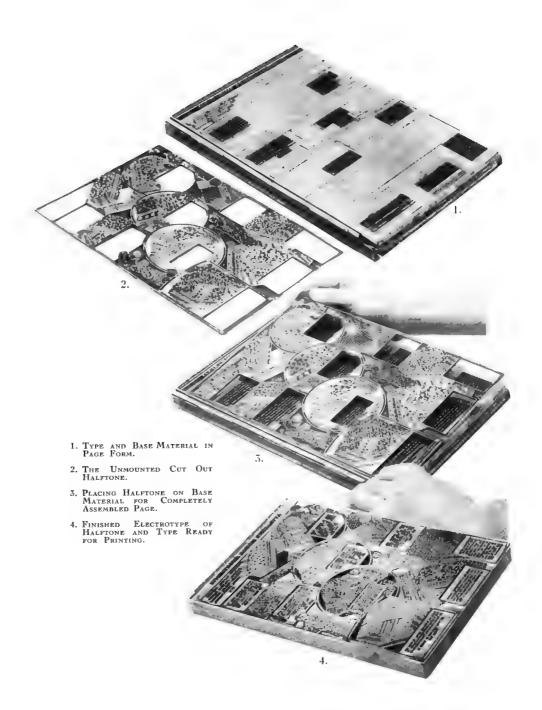
A PORTION OF THE FLAT PAPER STOCKROOM WHERE LARGE SUPPLIES OF BONDS AND BOOK PAPERS ARE KEPT ON HAND TO GUARANTEE PROMPT SERVICE.

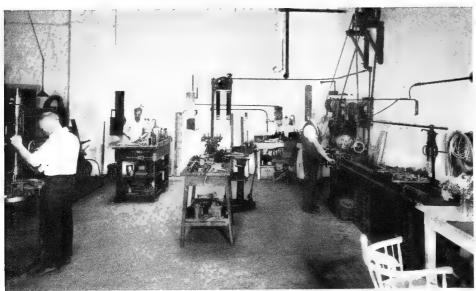
RESOURCES

It would be essential for certain large purchasers of printing to know that those they are dealing with have sufficient financial resources to guarantee the completion of the work in a satisfactory manner. To all such we would give as references the usual agencies such as Dun or Bradstreet. Others might like to refer to our bankers, The Bank of Montreal. Investigation of this kind will only serve to prove that in Winnipeg is an establishment unique in size and worth for the territory it serves.

Paper, purchased from the important mills of the world, passes through our plant and is shipped abroad, delivered at home or distributed through the mails as finished printed matter. Our paper purchases alone run to enormous figures in the course of a year, yet any paper mill will tell you that Stovels are dependable, reliable people.

With Winnipeg practically the centre of Canada, not only can your message reach the whole of Canada with the least possible delay, but the same transportation systems that radiate from Winnipeg to the four points of the compass can quickly deliver to us special stocks whenever required. Heavy stocks, sufficient for at least three months' requirements, are carried at all times to protect against delays.





STOVEL'S MACHINE SHOP HAS COMPLETE FACILITIES IN LATHES, DRILLS AND GRINDERS TO QUICKLY REPAIR BROKEN PRESS PARTS OR TO PRODUCE SPECIAL ATTACHMENTS FOR THEIR EQUIPMENT

In short, we believe you will find, on any investigation you care to make, that the Company is not only progressive in spirit but of sound financial standing.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TRADE

It is interesting to know that in the late nineties experiments following an idea gleaned from a suggestion made by others, finally resulted in the perfection of the use of unmounted halftones. Close co-operation of the engraving, type-setting, and electrotyping departments of Stovels worked out the details which today are a general practice in all large printing establishments, and used by practically all daily newspapers.

The original metal unit blocks were made for us to our specifications by the Wesel Manufacturing Company, now of New York City. Later, on our suggestion, a special mold was designed for linotype machines which produced base material of the proper height, so that when the unmounted engraving was placed on top of this base material, it was exactly type high. Today almost every type-casting machine includes equipment for producing similar base material. The practice has become quite general, and printers the world over have saved many thousands of dollars because of this method of setting type for intricate mortises or close copy to engravings.



GROUP PICTURE TAKEN AT STOVEL'S FIRST PICNIC, AUGUST 5TH 1905



It is Interesting to Note the Gradual Increase Each Year of the Happy "Family" of Stovel Picnickers and Still the Old Timers Look Forward to This Annual Event. Ten of the Employees Who Attended the 1905 Picnic Were Still With the Company and Joined With Their Families in the 1931 Outing.

Enthused with the results from the foregoing experiments, Stovels worked out an idea for patent bases which, perfected by others, has not only speeded printing production but increased the quality of the finished product. Today almost every printer uses patent bases in some form or other. It is of some interest to know the first crude patent blocks were used by Stovels, made to their specifications.

It may be that today we are employing methods that will be equally as outstanding to the trade at large, with the passing of years. It seems reasonable that short-cuts and savings can be more readily worked out in a plant where so many departments can co-operate, and are only concerned with final results. It would be more difficult if each department were a separate concern, as is the case in a great many businesses, each specializing in its own trade. Co-operation has meant much, and what we have learned we are only too glad to pass on to others in the trade, a spirit which is today being more evidenced in the Printing House Craftsmen's Association by their motto "Share Your Knowledge."

EMPLOYEES' ORGANIZATIONS

Two organizations amongst our employees are worthy of mention. The first, "Stovel Mutual Club;" the second, "Stovel's Annual Picnic." Both were the first of their kind in Western Canada.

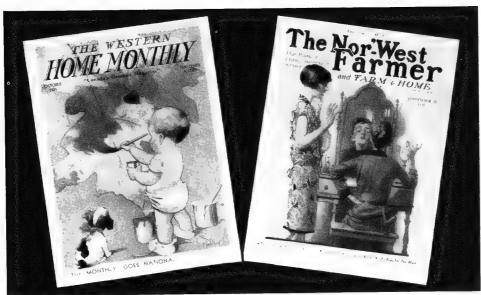
The former is, as its name implies, a mutual organization for the benefit of its members. Through the years it has been a great blessing to those who were visited by illness for a period of time, and to the relatives of those who passed on. Most of the similar organizations in Western Canada have been fashioned along the lines of the Stovel Mutual Club, a tribute possibly to the thoroughness with which our early employees drafted their constitution and laid the basis for their organization.

The Annual Picnic is almost a Winnipeg Institution today. The first Annual Picnic was held in 1905. Since then, except for a time during the Great War, each year the employees hold their picnic at some one of the resorts adjacent to Winnipeg. It is a day of fun and frolic. Goodfellowship is much in evidence, and one realizes there is something of the big family idea in the spirit that pervades the Stovel Company.

Besides these two features of the employees of Stovels, it is to their credit that through the years they have actively and with success entered various fields of sports. Football, baseball, hockey, curling, golf, bowling—in short it is quite evident that they are equally proficient at play as at work—a nicety of balanced life that results in the worth-while citizen.



THE TRADE PAPERS SHOWN ABOVE REACH BETTER THAN 80% OF THEIR RESPECTIVE TRADES IN WESTERN CANADA. ANY RECOGNIZED ADVERTISING AGENCY CAN GIVE YOU PARTICULARS.



"The Western Home Monthly" is Canada's Greatest Magazine. "The Nor'-West Farmer and Farm & Home" is Western Canada's Leading Exclusive Farm Journal.

STOVEL PUBLICATIONS

Allied with the parent organization are various subsidiary companies, each serving the public of Canada or Western Canada as magazine publishers.

The Western Home Monthly—"Canada's Greatest Magazine," is a National magazine for the urban home. Of high editorial and feature story content, it enjoys an enviable reputation for this type of publication.

The Nor'-West Farmer and Farm & Home serves the farm field of Western Canada from the Great Lakes to the Pacific Coast. It devotes its energy to developing better farming and recognizes outstanding practical farmers of the West in its "Master Farmer" movement. It early led the way to mixed farming in Western Canada, pioneering this solution to farm problems, today heralded as the only real remedy.

The other eight Stovel publications are all so-called Trade Papers, each serving a definite phase of Western business and each recognized as leaders in their particular field of endeavor.



Completing the Mounting of a Special Large Scale Map of Winnipeg. One of Stovel's Unusual Map Orders.



Some of the Trophies Won by Stovel Company Employees

CONCLUSION

The foregoing outlines something of the history and activities of an organization. It is devoted to doing its share to the upbuilding of society—the success of business, and the thoughtful co-operation of those associated with it. If the story has interested the reader a personal visit to the plant would be of even greater interest. At all times you are welcome. If we are fortunate enough to serve you we will endeavor to prove to you that we are in a sense your "silent but active partner," mutually interested with you in your success.



